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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **THE UNIVERSITY COURT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW** [GB/GB]; Gilbert Scott Building, University Avenue, Glasgow Aberdeenshire G12 8QQ (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **PARENTY, Alexis** [GB/GB]; 22 Cecil Street, Glasgow Aberdeenshire G12 8RH (GB). **CRONIN, Leroy** [GB/GB]; The Waltry New Lodge, 67 Antermony Road, Milton of Campsie, East Dunbartonshire Aberdeenshire G66 8AA (GB). **BROWN, Robert** [GB/GB]; 22 Allan Road, Killearn G63 9QE (GB).

(74) Agents: **KIDDLE, Simon** et al.; Mewburn Ellis LLP, York House, 23 Kingsway, London Greater London WC2B 6HP (GB).

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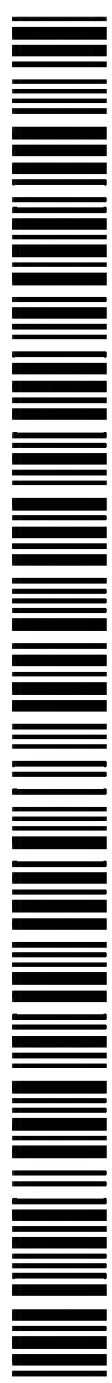
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(54) Title: PHENANTHRIDINIUM DERIVATIVES AS DNA BINDING AGENTS

(57) Abstract: New classes of heterocyclic aromatic cationic compounds are disclosed, and in particular new classes of phenanthridinium derivatives, most notably dihydro-imidazo-phenanthridinium (DIP) compounds. These findings are based on the reaction of the middle b ring of a phenanthridinium core with primary amines to form DIP compounds (Formula A) or secondary amines to form 2-aminoalkyl phenanthridinium derivatives (Formula B). These reactions can also be applied to other classes of starting compounds which comprise a 6-membered ring aromatic heterocycle having a ring nitrogen and at least one alpha hydrogen atom which can be reacted with a primary or secondary amine.



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